

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 28565 281606Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 AF-10 LAB-04
SIL-01 /051 W
-----126581 281618Z /44

P R 281556Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO FAA WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6590
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 28565

LONDON, BONN, ROME, BRUSSELS FOR EMBASSY AND FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH CONTROLLERS WORK-TO-RULE SLOWDOWN

REF: PARIS 28034 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. TRAFFIC DELAY AT CHARLES DE GAULLE AND ORLY AIRPORTS
IS WORSENING AND SEVERAL FLIGHTS TO AND FROM SPAIN,
PORTUGAL AND NORTH AFRICA ARE EXPERIENCING DELAYS RANG-
ING FROM THREE TO EIGHT HOURS. TWA'S WORST DELAY SO FAR
ON A WESTBOUND FLIGHT OUT OF PARIS WAS THREE HOURS.

AT THE MOMENT, THERE IS NO INDICATION OF RESUMPTION
OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CONTROLLER UNIONS AND THE TRANS-
PORT MINISTER. THERE IS STILL A DEADLOCK OVER WAGES,
PERSONNEL AND MORE ADEQUATE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIP-
MENT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 28565 281606Z

2. COMMENT: REGARDING AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EQUIPMENT,
VISITING FAA EXPERTS HAVE ON OCCASIONS COMMENTED THAT
THE CENTER AT ATHIS MONS (PARIS REGION) WAS ONE OF THE
BEST EQUIPPED IN THE WORLD, IN SOME RESPECTS BETTER THAN
IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS ASSESSMENT WAS CONFIRMED BY
JEAN-MARIE GIRAUD, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AIR NAVIGATION,

IN A CONVERSATION WITH OUR FAA REPRESENTATIVE. IN HIS VIEW, THE CLAIM BY THE CONTROLLERS UNION REGARDING ANTI-QUATED ATC EQUIPMENT (ALMOST ENTIRELY FRENCH ANUFACTURED) IS TOTALLY UNFOUNDED AND MERELY AN EXCUSE IN SUPPORT OF CLAIMS FOR HIGHER PAY AND FRINGE BENEFITS SUCH AS A FIFTH WEEK OF ANNUAL LEAVE.

3. THE TECHNICAL ADEQUACY OF THE OTHER THREE ATC CENTERS IS UNKNOWN. HOWEVER, THE BREST CENTER, WHICH HANDLES MOST TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHTS, IS IN OPERATION ONLY ONE YEAR AND PRESUMABLY HAS BEEN SUPPLIED WITH THE LATEST EQUIPMENT. IT IS ALSO CONCEIVABLE THAT THE PARIS CENTER, DUE TO ITS CONVENIENT LOCATION AND HIGHEST ACTIVITY MAY BE THE TEST CENTER FOR THE LATEST EQUIPMENT IN PREFERENCE TO BORDEAUX AND MARSEILLE. THE LATTER CENTERS ARE IN FACT THOSE MAKING THE LOUDEST CLAIM FOR MODERNIZATION AND INSTIGATING THE WORK SLOWDOWN.

4. MR. GIRAUD ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ALL CONTROLLERS WANT TO TAKE LEAVE IN THE SUMMER DURING PEAK ACTIVITY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ENFORCING A TWENTY PER CENT MAXIMUM ABSENTEEISM RULE. AS A RESULT, EIGHTY PER CENT OF THE CONTROLLERS HAVE TO HANDLE A VOLUME OF TRAFIC DOUBLE THAT OF THE WINTER MONTHS WHEN 100 PER CENT OF THE CONTROLLERS ARE AVAILABLE. ACCORDING TO GIRAUD, THE CONTROLLERS ARE NOT AGREEABLE TO STAGGERING THEIR LEAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 28565 281606Z

OVER THE WHOLE YEAR. THIS ACCOUNTS FOR THE DIFFICULT SITUATION DURING SUMMER PEAKS.
HARTMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RULES, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL, LABOR STRIKES, AIR SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS28565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780351-0182
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780817/aaaaaohk.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e114f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PARIS 28034
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1602423
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH CONTROLLERS WORK-TO-RULE SLOWDOWN
TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, FR, PO, SP
To: FAA STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e114f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014